

January 23, 2001

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular meeting at 7:06 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2001, at the North Torrance High School Library, 3620 182nd Street.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Messerlian, Nowatka, Walker, Scotto, Witkowsky and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers and other staff representatives.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by North High School JROTC.

The invocation was given by Pastor Lloyd Harrison, Jr., South Bay Church of God.

3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilmember Cribbs moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

MOTION: Councilmember Cribbs moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Hardison asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of retired Torrance Fire Department employee Jerry Terrill.

Councilmember Walker commented that he had known Mr. Terrill for almost 30 years and he was a fine employee, a living example of why people become firemen and he would be missed dearly.

Mayor Hardison announced a drawing for individuals who signed in and remained through the community input portion of the meeting.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6a. PRESENTATION BY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Principal Tim Scully welcomed the City Council to North High School stating that it was an honor and a privilege to have the Council in the Library. Mayor Hardison commented that two years ago the City Council had a successful outreach at the Library which had influenced them to return again.

6b. PROCLAMATION RE TORRANCE COMMUNITY TELEVISION DAY

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring February 2, 2001 as Torrance Community Television Day to Richard Tsao, Chair of the TCTV Advisory Board. Mr. Tsao thanked Mayor Hardison and the Council and invited the City Council, City staff and residents of Torrance to support their volunteers.

6c. DONATION OF TWO BULLARD THERMAL IMAGING CAMERAS FROM TTFA

The Fire Chief requests that City Council provide the Fire Department authorization to receive the donation of two Bullard Thermal Imaging Cameras from the TTFA.

Mike Hansen, President of the Torrance Fire Fighters Association welcomed Redondo Beach Fire Fighters, Captain Larry Skibiski and Fire Fighter Jim Caldwell who made the initial contact with the anonymous donor of the cameras to Torrance and Redondo Fire Departments at a total of \$75,000.

Mr. Hansen reported that they had received training to use the cameras, put them into service on December 28 and they were subsequently used during a fire on January 3 where they helped save lives. Mr. Hansen explained that the camera detected differences in heat levels which enabled them to pick up body images and detect weakened ceiling conditions. He commented that the cameras made it safer for fire fighters and added that they were finding more uses for them every day.

Fire Chief Bongard read an account of the incident on January 3 as written by Captain Bohm which described conditions and indicated that the thermal imager had allowed them to quickly evaluate the situation and find two victims. The thermal imager drastically shortened the time for knock down and containment and they believe that one of the victims would not have been found without it.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT – DECEMBER 2000**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for the month of December 2000.

7b. **INCREASE TO PURCHASE ORDER (VC#20) RE DELL COMPUTER CORPORATION**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Information Technology Director that City Council authorize an increase to the existing vendor contract purchase order (VC#20) with Dell Computer Corporation, Inc. by \$43,000 for the purchase of an early replacement server at Transit, a new Library phone/voice renewal server, and unanticipated laptop purchases for a total vendor contract purchase order cost not-to-exceed \$163,000.

7c. **LEASE RE ENTRADERO SUMP LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD #4**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute and City Clerk to attest to an agreement on behalf of the City of Torrance initiating a lease for the use of Entradero Sump Little League Field #4 by West Torrance Babe Ruth Baseball Organization for the period of January 23, 2001 through December 13, 2001.

7d. **AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT (C98-297) RE ROGERS & MCDONALD GRAPHICS**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve an amendment to the 1999-2000 agreement (C98-297) with Rogers & McDonald Graphics extending the agreement amount of \$55,540 by \$3,453.30.

7e. **AMENDED MOU (C99-102) BETWEEN MAX PARTICIPANTS AND L.A. COUNTY MTA**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council approve the Amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (C99-102) between the City of Torrance, one of seven municipal and county participants in the Municipal Area Express (MAX) Commuter Service Program, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for the Proposition A and C Local Return Capital Reserve program.

7f. SALE OF SURPLUS/OBSOLETE VEHICLES TO TUSD AND GENERAL AUCTION COMPANY

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council authorize the sale of three (3) surplus/obsolete vehicles to Torrance Unified School District and six (6) to General Auction Company for public sale.

7g. CHANGE ORDERS TO EXISTING PURCHASE ORDERS WITH PARKS MOBIL, PARS UNION 76 AND SOUTHERN COUNTIES OIL COMPANY

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council approve change orders to the existing purchase orders with Parks Mobil, Pars Union 76 and Southern Counties Oil Company for alternative fueling of City vehicles while the City Services fueling facility remains out of service. Parks Mobil and Pars Union 76 provide off-site fueling for gasoline vehicles; Southern Counties Oil Company (formerly known as Cardlock Fuels) brings a mobile diesel fueling truck to the City Yard. These change orders will increase the Parks Mobil purchase order by \$135,000, that with Pars Union 76 by \$70,000, and that with Southern Counties Oil Company by \$135,000 and will extend the contract periods through June 2001.

7h. PURCHASE ORDERS RE DODGE VEHICLES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council authorize purchase orders totaling \$422,102.56 for the purchase of five (5) Dodge Cab and Chassis, nine (9) Dodge Regular Cab pick-ups, one (1) Dodge passenger van, three (3) Dodge cargo vans, three (3) Dodge mini-trucks and three (3) Dodge Neon Sedans as a cooperative purchase with the State of California. The General Services Director also recommends City Council authorize payment to the State of California in the amount of \$3,908.36 for the use of their contracts.

7i. AMENDMENT RE MOINES BROTHERS CONTRACT (C2000-244)

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council:

1. Approve an amendment to the Moines Brothers contract (C2000-224) for repair of underground fueling tank systems at the City Services and Transit Facilities; at no additional cost, to extend the contract term from January 31, 2001 to June 30, 2001; and
2. Approve a change in the contract to indicate the Agreement is between Charles Moines and Moines Brothers, a California partnership.

7j. PURCHASE ORDER RE GLENDALE NISSAN

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director and the Chief of Police that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued in the amount of \$70,620.87,

to Glendale Nissan of Glendale, California, for the purchase of three (3) 2001 Nissan Maxima GXE Sedans.

7k. PURCHASE ORDER RE SPICERS PAPER INC. OF SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director that City Council authorize a purchase order to be issued to Spicers Paper Inc. of Santa Fe Springs, CA, in the amount of \$525,000, for the purchase of miscellaneous paper on an "as needed basis." The new purchase order will be for a 17 month-term, beginning February 1, 2001 and ending June 30, 2002, to coincide with the fiscal year

7l. PURCHASE ORDER RE UNIVERSAL SPECIALTY VEHICLES, INC., RIVERSIDE, CA

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued for an amount not to exceed \$89,364.00 to Universal Specialty Vehicles, Inc., Riverside, CA, for the sole-source purchase of a Mobile Command Post Fifth Wheel Trailer for the Police Department

7m. DONATION RE POLICE STATION EMPLOYEE PATIO

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council accept, appropriate, and allocate a \$1,000 donation from former Councilwoman Maureen O'Donnell to be used in the development of the Employee Patio being constructed at the Police Station.

7n. APPROPRIATION AND ALLOCATION RE STATE UNAPPROPRIATED ASSET FORFEITURE ACCOUNT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council appropriate and allocate \$116,600 from the State Unappropriated Asset Forfeiture account to fund the following:

1. The establishment of a project account to fund DNA testing - \$50,000;
2. The purchase of tactical entry vests for Investigative Bureau Officers - \$36,000;
3. The purchase of two long rifles for the Special Weapons and Tactics Team - \$8,000; and
4. The replenishment of the Asset Forfeiture miscellaneous projects account - \$22,600.

7o. AMENDMENT RE AGREEMENT (C99-252) WITH PROJECT PARTNERS, INC.

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

1. Approve an Amendment to an existing Agreement (C99-252) with Project Partners, Inc. to extend the contract twelve months and provide additional

Construction Management/Inspection Services in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for:

- a. Artesia Boulevard Water Main Replacements and Recycled Water Mains (I-26);
 - b. 190th Street Water Main Replacement (I-56); and
 - c. Desalter Water Main, Madrona Avenue; and
2. Authorize the Mayor to execute and City Clerk to attest said Amendment.
 3. Appropriate \$10,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund for Desalter Water Main Inspection.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved for the approval of Consent Calendar items 7a through 7o as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Hardison reported that they had approved a generous donation from Councilwoman Maureen O'Donnell and commented that her generosity continued even after leaving office.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11a. ORDINANCE NO. 3493 RE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER AND AWARD OF CONTRACTS

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council adopt an ordinance amending the Lowest Responsible Bidder and Award of Contracts sections of the Torrance Municipal Code and adding a new section relating to Waiver of Defects and Technicalities.

Engineering Director Burt introduced new Division Engineer James Biery who authored the report. Division Engineer Biery reported that the ordinance had come out of work related to the lowest responsible bidder selection process and indicated that they were proposing 4 amendments which were: 1. Add additional factors including integrity, and trustworthy reputation; 2. Allow rejection of non-responsive bids, i.e., incomplete applications; 3. Rejection of bidders who have been disqualified from other agencies; and, 4. Allow a waiver of certain technicalities or defects if it is in the City's best interests to do so. Division Engineer Biery observed that they would have the necessary tools to oversee the process with the four amendments.

Councilmember Cribbs thanked them for their hard work and noting that had been a difficult item.

ORDINANCE NO. 3493

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPEALING SECTION 4 OF ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 2 OF DIVISION 2 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER AND SECTION 10 OF ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 2 OF DIVISION 2 RELATING TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 4 OF ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER 2 OF

DIVISION 2 RELATING TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, A NEW SECTION 9 OF ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 2 OF DIVISION 2 RELATING TO THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS, A NEW SECTION 10 OF ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 2 OF DIVISION 2 RELATING TO THE WAIVER OF DEFECTS AND TECHNICALITIES AND RENUMBERING ALL OF ARTICLE 3 OF CHAPTER 2 OF DIVISION 2 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO FORMAL BIDDING.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3493. Councilmember Cribbs seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to approve publication of the ordinance summary. Councilmember Cribbs seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11b. RESOLUTION NO. 2001-07 RE AMENDED EMPLOYEES' DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN B

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council adopt resolution approving an amended Employees' Deferred Compensation Plan B – Part-Time, Seasonal, Temporary Employees.

City Treasurer Barnett reported that it was agreed that they would add additional investment options and enhance distribution options for those participants of \$5,000 or greater.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Nowatka, City Attorney Fellows clarified that though he was a participant, he was eligible to vote on the item as it did not affect his retirement.

RESOLUTION NO. 2001-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING AN AMENDED EMPLOYEES' DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN B – PART-TIME, SEASONAL, TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES.

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved to adopt Resolution No. 2001-07. Councilmember Walker seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

11c. COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

Recommendation of the City Manager and the Finance Director that City Council open and conduct a Community Outreach meeting for the purpose of receiving public input related to the 2001-2003 City Operating Budget.

City Manager Jackson stated that the meeting was the second part of the outreach program and provided a history of the budget process. He gave an overview of some of the elements of the budget and noted that department heads were present to hear public comment which would be taken into consideration.

Finance Director Tsao indicated that there were full sets of slide copies available for the public and summarized the slides from the previous outreach meeting noting that the majority of the general fund was spent on public services. He stated that they would primarily be discussing the Operating Budget for the City and he provided a timeline for budget related input.

In response to a comment from Mayor Hardison that the public perceived that a great deal of the City's revenues came from property tax, Finance Director Tsao clarified that the City received 12.3 cents for every dollar and the bulk of that money went to schools.

Assistant City Manager Giordano reported that they had identified five preliminary areas of focus: School District and City Cooperation; Economic Development; E-government; Human Resource Management; and Effective Asset Management.

She indicated that there were temporary rate increases for electricity which they would be monitoring over a 90 day period to examine the City's options and added that there was an initiative petition to repeal the City's lighting district and a decision would have to be made on February 6.

Mayor Hardison noted that the City would not be able to go to the community to get more money to cover increased electrical costs and commented that though the residential community might perceive that they paid the entire cost of the assessment for lighting, when in fact, 40%, is paid by the business community. She stated that if the lighting assessment were repealed, the City would have to provide for that in the budget.

City Manager Jackson pointed out that the City of Torrance was very constrained in what they could do to make up the cost of the assessment if it were to be repealed, and explained that they could not raise taxes or fees unless it directly related to the service. He expressed deep concern with power interruption and increased energy costs and he commented that the economic integrity of Torrance and all of California was threatened.

City Manager Jackson encouraged residents to fill out the budget surveys.

Mayor Hardison observed that some people at the first outreach meeting had commented on budget items and others on capital items and she explained that in some cases they could quickly get back to them and some would be part of the entire budget.

City Manager Jackson clarified that the capital budget included investment and infrastructure items like streets, sewers, water, storm drains and construction of new facilities like the Nature Center and the Wilson Park Gymnasium which were significant capital expenditures in the city. He explained that they were discussing the operating

budget which included the number of police officers, street trimmers and frequency of activities that they do.

Mayor Hardison explained the procedures for public speaking.

Alan Lee, spoke on behalf of the Torrance Municipal Employees AFSMCE Local #1117 and commented that he would get clarification from the City Treasurer at a later date on Council agenda item 11b which he felt was applicable to members he represented. He observed that there had been a number of equipment items for the police department approved recently and asked the Council not to forget the employees of the police department. He requested consideration of an adjustment for police communication operators noting that adjustments were sometimes made outside of the contract and in the past when they had requested increases, management had responded that they had no authority.

Kathryn Roberts, 17031 Spinning Avenue, Chairperson of the Library Commission, asked for continued support of the branch refurbishments and additions and invited everyone to the grand opening of the basement of the Katy Geissert Library on February 22 at 3:30 p.m.

Ray Jackman, 3115 W. 183rd Street, presented copies of signed petitions asking that the City of Torrance establish its own shelter and animal control officers and reported that they had collected over 3,400 signatures to date and would continue to collect more.

Deborah Green, President of the South Bay Conservatory, 3326 Civic Center Drive, introduced Ashley Ellis, a senior at Torrance High School and principal dancer with the South Bay Ballet and Kirk Stefferud from West High School, a participant in many arts programs.

Ashley Ellis, 3402 W. 229th Street, thanked the Mayor and City Council for the citation and presentation of the award from Senator Feinstein. She commented that she had been performing with the South Bay Ballet for almost 10 years and had moved to Torrance to be closer to the studio. She expressed appreciation for the support of the City which had made a huge difference in her life and invited everyone to the Bravo Performance at the Armstrong Theatre on March 10.

Kirk Stefferud, reported that he had taken many classes at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center and that the South Bay Conservatory brought out a stronger talent in everything he does by instilling a sense that he can do anything that he puts his mind to. He added that the classes had helped him make friends and be successful at a very difficult time in his life.

Diane Lauridsen, Director of the South Bay Ballet, thanked the Council for their support and commented that Kirk and Ashley were just two of many children educated by the Torrance non-profits.

John Sellers, a volunteer at the North Torrance Library, requested that a Junior Library Clerk be hired for the North Torrance Library to help with the heavy traffic on the computers.

Frank Wolf, 2409 W. 180th Place, asked that the users taxes be levied on usage rather than economics.

Edward Doty, 4134 W. 173rd Street, commented that the population of Torrance was aging and voiced concerns regarding affordable senior housing. He expressed hope that they would make it possible for people like himself to stay in Torrance and suggested improving home help services and public transportation. He reported that the Sea-Aire Golf Course, owned by the City of Torrance, was inadequately staffed and asked that funding be set aside to hire more personnel there.

Shawn Silvia, 18914 Felbar Avenue, expressed concerns with the way he was treated by the Torrance Police Department on December 17, 2000 and Mayor Hardison explained that they were discussing budget items and suggested he bring up his concern under Orals.

Mike Hansen, with the Torrance Fire Fighters Association, stated that they still had response time issues and asked the City Council to look into adding a fifth rescue and one more full time dispatcher.

Rhett Bise, 18915 Cordary Avenue, Vice Chair of the Torrance Community Services Commission, stated that one of the major functions of the Commission was to advise the City Council in the disbursement of grants to non-profit social service agencies in Torrance who provide a broad range of services for all residents and are a critical part of meeting the needs of the community. He noted that over the past two years the Commission had received requests for funds far exceeding what they had available and on behalf of the Commission, he respectfully requested that the Council increase funding to \$50,000.

Debra Meagher, 18506 Grevillea Avenue, spoke in support of a City based animal control program noting that she wanted to support the animals and ensure public safety.

Amber Meagher, 18506 Grevillea Avenue, stated that there were too many stray animals in the City of Torrance and requested that animal control officers be hired to protect citizens.

Stacey Bean, 18504 Grevillea Avenue, asked that animal control officers be hired as her sister is afraid of dogs and there are a lot of strays when they walk home from school.

Jack Lunbeck, 23701 S. Western Avenue, expressed support for a City based animal shelter noting that he did not feel that the Carson shelter could take care of the City efficiently.

Florence Assalit, 23701 S. Western Avenue, spoke in favor of funding for a City based animal control program in the 2001-2003 operating budget noting that since 1994 Torrance had depended on L.A. County which provided an understaffed shelter.

Beth Brussell-Horton, reported that she worked in an animal hospital in Torrance and encouraged the Council to include funding in the budget for a Torrance based animal control program.

Dean Case, 416 Palos Verdes Blvd., read his comments into the record:

"My education and work experience is in Engineering. In Engineering we are trained to objectively look at data and draw the logical conclusion. The relevant data must include an economic analysis of the project. When I first became aware of a less than favorable situation at the L.A. County shelter serving Torrance I was skeptical. High euthanasia rates are an unfortunate reality of animal over population nationwide. Was this situation really any worse than elsewhere? The answer is unfortunately a resounding yes. Over the past seven months I have personally visited over a dozen shelters from San Diego to San Francisco. I have read hundreds upon hundreds of report pages, and reams of statistics. It is my objective conclusion that the L.A. County Shelter currently serving the citizens of Torrance is among the worst in the state in many categories including value of service.

Where blame resides is almost irrelevant at this time. We can, and should take the necessary steps to improve the situation in Torrance. This is a matter of public health and public safety. The required steps have been clearly reviewed with the Torrance Environmental Commission. Anyone who thinks the County can address our concerns should read the transcript of the most recent Commission meeting. At that meeting basic questions were directed to senior managers and officers within the Country department.

The commission asked, "Why, according to County reports, has the County failed to meet your contractual obligations to the City of Torrance these past three years? Why is the County out of compliance with California State law in terms of identifying lost animals? How do you account for such a high euthanasia rate? You should be aware that the rate at the Carson shelter is over ten times that of many other shelters. Why are volunteers turned away? Can you address reports of "accidental" euthanasia of wrong animals?" I think that Commissioners and audience were stunned with the County's inability to supply acceptable responses to any of these questions.

I would like to conclude with two other quick notes. As you can see from the maps I have prepared, the jurisdiction for the Carson shelter is extensive. It took two maps to include all of the cities that rely on this one shelter, over 700,000 people spread out over 100 square miles. I don't think our excellent Torrance Fire or Police Departments would seek to handle this size of area without adequate resources. The same desire for a quality Fire & Police Department should be used to establish a city animal control program.

And finally, having previously been tasked with working on money losing projects in industry I can well understand the concern about the costs of establishing a program within the city of Torrance. Having reviewed the numbers I am convinced that the economics are such that a Torrance based program yields a far superior value to Torrance residents.

I respectfully request that the Torrance City Council add Animal Control to the list of superb services currently found within the city of Torrance for the 2001-2003 operating budget.

Thank you.”

Chuck Boughton, 4039 W. 175th Pl., questioned whether the Cultural Arts Center was in debt or breaking even and Mayor Hardison explained that they had agreed to a subsidy which had not increased in the last two years. City Manager Jackson added that there was still a debt on the bond which had not been adjusted or changed and he noted that an annual payment was made. Mr. Boughton received clarification that the subsidies were for use and the full \$700,000 had not been used for the past couple of years, with the excess going back into the general fund to be used for general maintenance.

Sherry Roberts, 16333 Wilton Place, encouraged Commissioners to consider a Torrance based animal program adding that it was clear to anyone who visited the shelter that they are understaffed.

Toni Musulin, 1415 Acacia Avenue, stated that she was very much in favor of a Torrance based animal shelter as animals would find homes faster in their own cities.

Gary McKeon, commented that he had lived in Torrance for 38 years and the City did a great job with leadership and City services and he requested that funding be included for a city based animal shelter in the 2001-2003 budget.

Debra Corwin, 4716 W. Bulova Street, spoke in support of a City based animal control program and she turned over records pertaining to animals rescued from the shelter who died shortly thereafter noting that residents were reluctant to take animals to the Carson shelter.

Albert G. Ritz, 16602 Falda Avenue, expressed concerns regarding the Malloy Project at 3215 166th Street and Mayor Hardison directed him to speak with Building and Safety Manager Isomoto.

Shawna Thorup, 3901 W. 187th Street, asked for support for programs for youths in Grades 6-8 noting that there were many latchkey children at the libraries after school because they have no other place to go. She noted that due to the staffing levels at the libraries they are unable to assist as well as they might and suggested consideration of additional structured programs.

Michelle Duncan, 4826 Mayor Drive, urged the Council to include funding in the budget for a Torrance based animal control program and she noted that there were many others who supported the idea and they were all ready and willing to help make it happen.

Gerald Morel, 18903 Gerkin Avenue, expressed concerns with street drainage problems at 184th and Bailey, and City Manager Jackson directed him to speak with Engineering Director Burt.

Chuck Boughton, 4039 W. 175th Pl., suggested that citizens with pets bear the burden of the cost for a Torrance based animal control program and Mayor Hardison clarified that was currently how the system operated. She added that every penny spent in the City was accounted for and noted that any money spent for emergencies had to come from the general fund.

Joni Gang, pointed out though dog owners currently pay for animal control in the City, many residents used animal control for skunks and possums or to feel safer.

Mayor Hardison appreciated the brevity of the speakers and noted that the City was limited in the ways they could raise revenue and would have to go to the people if they needed to raise taxes. She pointed out that any extra money they were spending on power would not come back to the City and asked whether there was any additional revenue available to consider.

City Manager Jackson stated that he did not see enhanced revenues which left very little room for growth in the budget and explained that typically the Council would not see the draft of the budget until April. He added that if the lighting assessment district were repealed it would substantially impact their ability to provide services and he noted that they would have find \$1.2 million dollars from somewhere else in the community.

Mayor Hardison stated that the animal control issue was going through a process of review by the Environmental Quality Services and Energy Conservation Commission but noted that for the City to take it over in its entirety was a very expensive proposition. She allowed that she was willing to look at some changes but added that if there were discretionary dollars, she was not sure where she would spend them. She commented that the 3-year commitments they had made to employee groups diminished the amount of discretionary income available and she felt that there were more immediate problems to be dealt with.

City Manager Jackson reported that there was short term funding available for Police and Fire equipment opportunities as well as some one-time money from the State, subject to what they do on the energy crisis and they had been assisted with street improvements and an aggressive capital improvement program could enhance those projects as well.

Mayor Haridson pointed out that they had to be careful not to commit to ongoing costs when using one-time money.

Councilmember Messerlian observed that half of the 50 people who spoke were in favor of the animal control program which was a big-ticket item. He asked City Manager Jackson to investigate the possibility of adding an additional Youth Services Librarian and an assessment engine, and commented that a few people at the previous outreach meeting had mentioned the baffling of train noise.

Councilmember Walker noted that prioritizing the use of City funds was what they had been voted in to do and he observed that there were a lot of people talking about an animal shelter but that he was in favor of trying to solve the existing problems as it would be cost prohibitive to construct a Torrance shelter. He felt that nothing was

more important than saving lives, expressed interest in a fifth paramedic unit and stated that Police Department concerns with communications operators should be addressed promptly.

Councilmember Witkowsky reminded staff about her plan for transportation for seniors with a continuous loop, similar to local trolleys in other cities. She noted that she worked with seniors full time in her profession and pointed out that Torrance was one of the largest South Bay cities with one of the largest populations of seniors. The plan would help those in senior housing units get where they needed to go and she added that the 12 taxi tickets seniors were allowed to purchase per month were not sufficient as they translated to just 6 roundtrips. She noted that she would like to see the program in the coming year's budget even if only for a trial basis of 6 months and she added that it should be open to all Torrance residents.

Councilmember Witkowsky added that she also supported the addition of a Junior Library Clerk and the emergency services for the community, noting that she was bothered by the delay in response time caused by the train cutting the town in half when it stopped.

Councilmember Nowatka recognized that they were still early in the process and observed that some had portrayed the situation as a choice between saving lives and taking care of animals which might be a bit misleading. He acknowledged the importance of paramedics, police department communications and the Junior Library Clerk and noted that he would not close his mind to the possibility that something could be done for the animals in the community. He expressed great concern regarding the lighting assessment district and what it would mean to any projects.

Councilmember Cribbs thanked the people of Torrance for coming out and expressing their views and she felt it was important to get input from the community no matter what it was. She stated that whatever the issue, she wanted to hear it and she wanted to hear it early though she was not prepared to take a stand on any of the issues and was not sure about the staff viewpoints yet. She encouraged residents to stay involved, come to the budget hearings on May 1 and 15, and June 5 and 19, and to read the budget when it came out.

Councilmember Scotto asked staff to look at adding librarians for the youth programs and requested numbers regarding fire paramedic units spreading costs over a 2-3 year period. He added that he would continue studying the feasibility of a Torrance based animal shelter noting that people might be misled that it would cost the City as they might be able to get the funds from licensing.

Councilmember Scotto questioned what it would cost to improve the level of tickets in the senior ride program and asked for real numbers on railroad sound walls. He observed that none of the libraries in the surrounding cities charged for videos, CDs or DVDs, but noted that he needed to see numbers before he could determine whether it was appropriate to eliminate the fees.

In response to a comment from Mayor Hardison that video rental fees were used to pay for other programs, City Manager Jackson stated that the item would most likely come back at mid-year. Mayor Hardison stated that they needed to see the figures for

the potential programs and agreed with Councilmember Cribbs that it was important to hear input from the community and balance that with input from the department heads.

Community Services Officer Ghio awarded the Torrance Monopoly games.

11d. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR HARDISON AS DELEGATE TO LAWA COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council appoint Mayor Dee Hardison as the delegate to the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Community Roundtable, the alternate to be announced on Tuesday, January 23, 2001. This committee is dedicated to the reduction of aircraft noise that currently impacts our community.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to approve the appointment of Mayor Hardison as delegate to the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) Community Roundtable with Councilmember Nowatka to serve as alternate. Councilmember Witkowsky seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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The Torrance Redevelopment Agency met from 9:07 p.m. to 9:08 p.m.

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15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

15a. City Manager Jackson thanked staff and the Torrance Unified School District for their efforts in setting up the meeting.

15b. The entire City Council expressed thanks to staff and all involved in putting the meeting together.

15c. Councilmember Scotto commented favorably on the Service Award dinner held the previous week for employees and noted that it illustrated the longevity of the City's employees. He suggested turning off every other street light on major thoroughfares as a temporary measure during the current energy situation and noted that if neighboring cities did the same thing the effect would be cumulative. City Manager Jackson responded that they had had preliminary discussions with SCE and explained that they did not have the capital expenditures necessary to cover the labor to turn off every other light, but he noted that there might be other ways to reduce the energy expenditure.

Councilmember Scotto expressed concerns about the effect of the energy situation on the City of Torrance noting that businesses might move out of California which would affect the employment base. He acknowledged that they were saving energy at City Hall and encouraged residents to turn off Christmas lights and be proactive in any way they could.

15d. Councilmember Witkowsky indicated that she was pleased to see the president of the North Torrance Homeowners Association supporting the Council and the community.

15e. Mayor Hardison commented that the South Bay Council of Governments would be exploring methods of cooperative energy conservation at the next meeting.

15f. Chuck Boughton, 4039 W. 175th Pl., thanked the Council for coming to the community and suggested that the surrounding cities might have similar animal control issues. Mayor Hardison noted that the South Bay Council of Governments had examined that a few years back and they could not find an appropriate location and she was not sure whether there was still interest in a joint shelter.

Mr. Boughton suggested that Torrance build their own power facility and Mayor Hardison pointed out that the City would have no way of delivering the power, but she acknowledged that the City needed to do something.

17. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:24 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, February 6, 2001 at 5:30 p.m., for an executive session in the Council Chamber, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. January 30, 2001 is a City Council dark night.

**** Adjourned in memory of Jerry Terrill ****

Attest:

Mayor of the City of Torrance

Sue Herbers
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on March 20, 2001